

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 60

January 2013

No. 1



Calendar

Fri., Dec. 21	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> at Penn Place	Mon., Jan. 14	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Mon., Dec. 31	Town Office closed	Tues., Jan. 15	<i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Thurs., Jan. 3	Casual Music Jam Session, Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., Jan. 17	Casual Music Jam Session, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., Jan. 5	Large item pickup	Sun., Jan. 20	Archives Presentation, Town Hall, time TBA
Sun., Jan. 6	Joanie Grosfield, Art at Penn Place (see p 3)	Thurs., Jan. 24	Happy Hour, Town Hall, 2 pm
Mon., Jan. 7	Monthly yard waste collection	Fri., Jan. 25	Pick up <i>Bugle</i> from table in PO lobby
Tues., Jan. 8	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm	Sat., Jan. 26	Town Dinner, Town Hall (see p 4)
Fri., Jan. 11	Film Society, Town Hall, <i>Mid-August Lunch</i> , 7 pm dinner, 8 pm film (see p 5)		

Old and New Guard

State and county representatives addressed a good turnout of Garrett Parkers at December's Town Council meeting. An array of cheeses and desserts at the back of the room beckoned throughout.

The thing you need to know is that Garrett Park will be in a new district starting with the next election, so half of the people we were looking at were ancient history (17th district), the other half the wave of the future (18th district).

Roger Berliner and Nancy Floreen also addressed the gathering.

Kumar Barve thanked us for the honor of representing us for 22 years, and said that among the important issues coming up were wind energy, the death penalty, and, of course, the budget. Rich Madaleno, one of the new guys, also stressed that the question of what Congress does with fiscal cliff and other taxation controversies is a crucial concern at the local level. Al Carr, another new guy, is in his fifth year in the General Assembly. The 18th district, he said, is a "good fit for Garrett Park. It has eight other small municipalities, so I'm familiar with the issues. In particular, in your case, MARC service, Pepco, and street lights." Jeff Waldstreicher, entering his seventh legislative term, is another new representative for us and is

in fact looking for a new house, maybe in Garrett Park.

Jenny Forehand, beginning her 35th year, singled out human trafficking, and, more broadly, "social justice issues," as important legislative areas.

Speaking on behalf of the County Council, Roger Berliner said that he "hoped you feel cared for and attended to by us. That is our job. We hope the state legislature will consider some transportation funding this year. We are in a competitive posture with Fairfax. We need to relieve congestion, but gas taxes are not popular."

The idea of Garrett Park being even tangentially part of a competition with Fairfax's Tyson's Corner was too much for one veteran Garrett Parker. "How do we progress without developing?" he wondered; he added, "I'm glad I'm 87. I won't see the changes you're talking about."

County Councilmember at large Floreen is in her third term. "I think someone stole the Nuclear Free sign," she began. (That is always happening.) "The White Flint plan is evolving. The Pike and Rose project is underway. Zoning ordinance rewrite is another issue. We approved the Kensington plan in the last year. We're trying to move

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Kensington away from a gasoline-based focus to a community focus.” (Kensington’s main drag is wall-to-wall gas stations.)

One of the questions from the audience: How are we going to deal with increased traffic with all the new development?

Berliner responded that “we’re trying to make the Rockville Pike a grand boulevard, as in places like Paris. Don’t laugh. The plan also moves traffic off the Pike.”

Floreen added that “we’ve approved an extension of Summit Avenue, which will take traffic off of Knowles and Strathmore. We can’t control the schools—there will be congestion between 3 and 5. Opening up Beach Drive to cross traffic would help, but this is very controversial.”

Other questions from citizens involved taxes, school funding, and, again, development.

Some representatives now left, while others stayed to hear our local business, as in Presentations by Residents. One Garrett Parker asked when the Council plans to act on land use issues. The Mayor said that he would like to see a presentation from the Land Use Task Force.

Councilmember Tara Flynn now updated us on the search for a new Town Administrator. The search committee recommended that we use Novak Consulting Group, and this was moved and unanimously approved. A ceiling of \$9,000 for the search was also approved, as was a change in the title, from Administrator to Manager.

We ourselves will handle the job description and interviewing; the search firm is largely about finding candidates.

In discussion, outgoing Town Administrator Ted Pratt cautioned: “Is the culture of the current political governance of the town in line with what you’re asking for here?”

Hans Wegner now noted that the State Highway Administration has grants available in which it will work with local schools to enhance the safety of kids walking to school, and to increase the number of students who walk. Garrett Park could apply for one of these and use the money for new sidewalks and sidewalk repair. He mentioned as examples the stretch from Oxford to Weymouth, the triangle on Kenilworth up to Argyle, and a replacement of the Clermont Avenue sidewalk.

A motion to authorize our applying for an SHA grant to improve safety for schoolchildren walking to school, and to encourage children to walk to school, was unanimously approved.

Our recycling company seems to have moved (temporarily?) to single stream recycling, the Mayor noted. Do we want to go back to dual?

As I understood the discussion, there may be no real issue here: Everyone who spoke argued for the clear superiority of dual, and it looks as

though our recyclers will in any case return to that. But citizens may want to weigh in here. (See the Mayor’s Letter, p 6.)

A discussion of Recycling Center tours ensued. Will they let you go in and tour them on your own, or do you need a class of fourth-graders trailing you?

Finally, the Council discussed the need for a new town Web site. The old one hasn’t been too reliable lately. Also, it’s difficult to put data on it, and a feature like a private residents-only section, for instance, which the current site doesn’t allow, might be nice. We’re going to need a new designer and a new maintainer. The Mayor would like this to happen quickly.

Jack Mandel will lead a task force looking into a new Web site.

Margaret Soltan

Green Again

Our banner donation this month is from Florence Gootenberg, in honor of her husband—Santa Roy. For years he arrived to distribute goodies for the children of town residents.

We need some new donations for next year. We’re good for the winter months, but could use some green to cover April, May, and June. If you would care to sponsor a green banner to go along with the blooming flowers in town, please make out a check to the Citizens Association for \$45 and mail it to me at Box 98. Many thanks.

Mary Moyer

Bench and Tree Donations

Did you know that you can make donations to our town to dedicate benches and trees to relatives and friends? I only found out about this recently by chance. Benches will provide resting places during walks, particularly useful to seniors and physically challenged individuals. Newly planted trees will contribute to the vitality of our arboretum.

I believe that every Garrett Parker should be aware of this opportunity to make donations to our town. Contact the Town Office for more info.

Gideon Kantor

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submit-BugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Snow removal. Please help Butch, Frank, and Jose keep our streets clear when it snows:

- Park cars off the streets when snow is predicted.
- Do not block intersections, particularly the Kenilworth/Rokeby barricade. Also, the hill on Oxford leading down to Weymouth has been a problem, with cars parked on both sides of the street, making it impossible for the plow or other emergency vehicles to get through.
- Keep sidewalks in front of your homes shoveled. The Town Maintenance Department will take care of Penn Place and the Town Hall. Please call the Town Office if you would like a list of young residents who are interested in work shoveling snow.
- Remember that Argyle Avenue is closed for sledding when snow falls. Be especially careful where Argyle meets Rokeby at Wells Park. Should the hill become icy, the hill will be cleared or sanded.

The town also asks residents to clear their own driveways all the way to the street. After street plowing is completed, the crew will go through town and push back driveways.

If any residents have special concerns about access to their homes during or after a snow-storm, please contact the Town Office so that we can be aware and provide assistance as needed.

We will make every effort to push back driveways. If you experience unusual problems, please call the Town Office (301-933-7488).

Leaf removal, yard waste. Leaf removal has finished. Please do not put leaves in the street; they should be bagged and will be removed with

the monthly yard waste. Remember, yard waste is collected on the first Monday of January (Jan. 7) and the first Monday of February (Feb. 4). We will return to weekly collection in March.

Trash, recycling, & large items. Trash and recycling pickups will take place on the usual days through the holidays. Please be sure to break down Christmas cardboard boxes to help the recycling crew. There will be a large item pickup on Saturday, January 5.

Christmas trees: Christmas trees will be collected and chipped by the town’s Maintenance Department as they are put out. Please remove as much tinsel as possible, and, of course, all ornaments, so we can keep our woodchip pile clean.

Holiday tips. Many residents have already given generously to the Holiday Tip Fund for the men who collect our trash. If anyone still wishes to make a gift, it is not too late. We typically receive numerous contributions after Christmas and make a second “New Year” distribution to these deserving individuals. To contribute, mail a check to PO Box 84, or drop it off at the Town Office. Checks should be made payable to Garrett Park with “Holiday Fund” written in the memo section.

Town Dinner: The date for the Town Dinner is Saturday, January 26. Save the date!

Office holiday schedule: The Town Office will be closed on Monday, December 24; Christmas Day; Monday, December 31; and New Year’s Day.

Elizabeth, Butch, Frank, and Jose join me in wishing all town residents a happy holiday season. As always, if you have questions or concerns, or just want to chat, please feel free to stop by the office any time, or call at 301-933-7488.

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator

Art at Penn Place

Joanie Grosfield’s exhibition will open at Penn Place on January 6 and continue until February 3. Joanie writes: “When I was little, my mother let me color on the walls. I think that she knew before I did that I would become an artist. My style resembles impressionism, but I don’t feel bound by any style. I do love color and the way light and dark bring out form. I love life, and painting is my way of connecting visually with others. I hope a scene that I paint might resonate with the viewer. It may be a place never visited but familiar anyway. My major at the University of Maryland was in Studio Art. I’ve won awards at local shows, including a first place at the Rockville Art League group show, in which the judge described my painting as ‘yummy.’”

Bert Zbar

Visit Garrett Park’s Web site:
www.garrettpark-md.gov



Services for Seniors

Activities of Daily Living <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bathing• Lifting• Personal Care & Hygiene	What Makes ElderCaring Different? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hour minimum for services – most companies require 4 hours as a minimum• All caregivers are professionally trained nursing assistants• The owner of ElderCaring personally meets with you to discuss your needs• All caregivers are fluent in English• Personal choice in selection of every caregiver• Licensed, Bonded, Insured• 24 Hours Service – 7 Days a Week
Support Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Companionship• Meal Preparation• Medication Reminder• Physical Therapy• Light Housekeeping• Transportation to Appointments	

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VA • Call 703-956-3564 www.eldercaringofnova.com

Would you like to receive a brochure in the mail, or set up an appointment?

Citizens Association News

There will be no Citizens Association meeting in December.

Annual Town Dinner. The Annual GPCA Town Dinner will take place starting at 6 pm on Saturday, January 26. The GPCA is looking for recommendations for the theme. If you have a suggestion or idea for the dinner, we want to hear from you.

Future meetings. Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Mario Grande at mfgrande@aol.com or send a note to Box 456.

Annual dues. The Citizens Association annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$10 for individuals and \$20 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who

have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

Garrett Park listserv. Our neighborhood is made up of people with a variety of backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv, an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services. The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Mario Grande (mfgrande@aol.com).

Garrett Park Archives: Complaints and Crime

Who stole several flower tubs from a Garrett Park street in 1975 and relocated them in front of a house in Garrett Park Estates? And was the thief ever caught and punished? *The answer lies in the Garrett Park Archives.*

The *Washington Post* was delivered directly to Garrett Park residents' doorsteps until 1984, when this service abruptly stopped. Was this really because a *Washington Post* carrier was assaulted by a masked man on the streets of Garrett Park (as she claimed) or was there another reason? *The answer lies in the Garrett Park Archives.*

Is it true that one Garrett Park resident once became so irate at the perceived inadequacy of the town's leaf removal activities that he sent an angry letter to the Mayor, accompanied by two bags of leaves? The answer, of course, lies in the Garrett Park Archives.

Did irate neighbors send letters to the Mayor and Town Council protesting a woman planning to use her house as a church retreat and a young man's band playing too loudly and too late at night? And did one Garrett Park resident send a furious note to her neighbor, saying, "Fatso, every leaf on our side lawn is from *your* tulip trees"?

Accounts of neighbor disputes, burglary, vandalism, and even murder—all can be found in the files of the Garrett Park Archives in the "Complaints and Crime" box. And if crime doesn't intrigue you, the Archives has files on many other topics, including Garrett Park house histories and residents, town ordinances, the railroad station, the parks, streets and traffic, the elementary school, and much more.

The Garrett Park Archives is located just off the Post Office lobby in Penn Place.

You Came and We Sang

The 30th annual Do-it-Yourself Carolfest happened with rousing song on December 14 at the Town Hall. Ably led by Doug Mader and beautifully accompanied by Mee Knystautas, over 60 voices blended in musical harmony. A couple of songs not planned on were added to the menu—next year we'll need the words to "White Christmas"! Thanks must go to Jean Horan for the refreshment setup. All in all we had a goodly crowd—with a lot of children who seemed to know their songs and enjoyed the ringing of bells.

Mary Moyer



9am-9pm
Mon-Sat
9am-7pm
Sunday

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"Serving Garrett Park since 2010"

More on Porcupine Woods Cleanup

The Parks and Open Space subcommittee that is looking into actions for improved stewardship of Porcupine Woods intends to present its initial recommendations to the Town Council at the Council's January 14 meeting. These recommendations will focus on removing bamboo from the woods and planting native evergreen trees and shrubs to replace it, and on cutting down trees that are damaged/dead and that present a danger to people walking in the park, or that adversely affect desirable trees.

To these ends, the subcommittee is investigating alternatives for eradicating the bamboo. Considerations include protection of surrounding trees and shrubs and either limited or no use of herbicides. Trees recommended for cutting have

been identified in consultation with the town's consulting arborist, Phil Normandy, and with Butch Frost.

Because there is so much debris from downed limbs and trees as a result of the summer storms, the subcommittee also is recommending that some large tree trunks be removed entirely. Butch and his crew already have plans for chipping some of the debris, but really large pieces cannot be disposed of in this way. The woodland floor needs some breathing room.

Again, if you have any comments or concerns, please contact a member of the subcommittee: Chris Keller, Frank O'Brinski, Cathy Rinzel, Ken Schwartz, and Suzanne Grefsheim, Chair.

GPFS Presents *Mid-August Lunch* in January

For its first film in the 2013 series, on January 11 the Garrett Park Film Society presents *Mid-August Lunch* (2008, in Italian). It is a "charming tale of good food, feisty ladies and unlikely friendships" that takes place in Rome over *Pranzo di Ferragosto*, Italy's biggest summer holiday.

Gianni lives with his 93-year-old mother in their ancient apartment. Broke and behind on the condo fees, Gianni agrees to entertain the building manager's aunt while the manager celebrates the holiday. Then a doctor friend drops off his mother for the *Mid-August Lunch*. Keeping four lively women fed and happy for the day is the

challenge. The result is a comedy of manners that will leave your mouth watering.

To help with that, Film Society cooks will present a dinner inspired by the movie. Bring your appetite, and enjoy good food and a warm and gentle film. Dinner is served at 7 pm. Cost is around \$10; cost of drinks (soda, beer, and wine) ranges from \$1 to \$5.

It is not too late to become a member (see form below). Admission to the film is free to members, and \$5 per person or \$10 per family for nonmembers.

All films are shown at 8 pm in the Town Hall.

Garrett Park Film Society, 2013 Series

Yes! I want to be a member.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Do you prefer mailings by U.S. post ____ or e-mail ____?

- Check the level of membership you want below. All levels include admission to all films and coupons that can be used for soft drinks, popcorn (when available), and nuts. Higher memberships receive more coupons.
- Make check payable to "Garrett Park Film Society" or "GPFS."
- Mail form and check to Suzanne Grefsheim, GPFS Treasurer, Box 175, Garrett Park, MD 20896.
- [] **Gaffer, Single** \$30 (5 coupons)
 - [] **Gaffer, Family** \$50 (10 coupons)
 - [] **Screenwriter** \$100 (20 coupons)
 - [] **Film Sponsor** \$250 (20 coupons; reserved front row seats for sponsored film; acknowledgement of your support)
 - [] **Director** \$300 (20 coupons; one glass of wine or beer per film)
 - [] **Producer** \$500 (20 coupons; free dinner for two for each film shown in 2013)

Letter from the Mayor

At this season, as I look back over the preceding year, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to live in, and contribute to, the wonderful town of Garrett Park. We are indeed a special oasis in the Washington suburbs, a supportive community with caring neighbors, a history which guides us, and a future which we build through our cooperative efforts. I wish everyone a happy holiday season and a fruitful new year.

Sadly, as this year draws to a close, we have also witnessed yet again the havoc caused by gun violence. To make my own position clear on a national basis, I have joined the group Mayors Against Illegal Guns, founded by Mayor Blumberg of New York and Mayor Menino of Boston. There is more that we can all do to prevent a repetition of such massacres.

Turning to town affairs, I can report that the Town Manager search committee (Councilmembers Tara Flynn, Jack Mandel, and Hans Wegner) has made great progress in the one month in which it has been working. We now have a search firm, the Novak Consulting Group, assisting us in areas in which we are less qualified and able to conduct the search; the search committee and Council are pursuing activities with which we do not need such assistance. The committee is discussing with the search firm a Town Manager job description which it has developed and the Council has reviewed. Notice the title change: the Council has approved, subject to discussion with the search firm, that our Town Administrator be called a Town Manager, more accurately reflecting the role and potentially attracting a more interesting talent pool.

Technology has passed our aging Web site by, and a recent server crash resulted in the loss of much of its content, unfortunately not backed up by our Web site maintainer. We think it is time for a new Web site, and Councilmember Mandel is forming a task force to define the nature of the new site, its desired capabilities, and its functions. If you have the appropriate IT or design background, or if you are just interested in contributing, we would appreciate your participation. Please contact Jack Mandel.

Continuing on this theme, in January we will be restricting the Garrett Park Mailing List, managed by the town, to official town notices and information only. We will continue to use the Garrett Park Neighbors listserv for social activity notices, events, discussion of issues, and other interesting but not official information. So if you belong to Neighbors and want to get Council and committee meeting notices, Council meeting agendas, trash pickup change information, progress reports on the Town Manager search, and similar information, send an e-mail message to GPML-Moderator@googlegroups.com with "GPML" in the subject line.

The town is looking for an official representative for the county's Martin Luther King Day celebration committee. If you are interested, call the Town Office at 301-933-7488 or e-mail to garrettpark2@comcast.net.

For those who have not seen the following discussion on our listservs, it is repeated here: Last spring Bill Rivers raised the question of whether Garrett Park could replace its dual-stream recycling (separate paper from other recyclables) with single-stream recycling (all recycling in one bin). We have discovered that without our knowledge our waste and recycling hauler, Montgomery County Sanitation, has been experimenting with single-stream recycling for our town for the past few months and has concluded that it can provide either single-stream or dual-stream recycling for us at the same price. The town now has the choice of either form of recycling.

The Town Council discussed the pros and cons of the two options at the December Council meeting and concluded that the ecological benefits of dual-stream outweigh the increased convenience of single-stream recycling. Single-stream recycling is easier for the homeowner. You do not have to separate your recyclables, as that is handled farther down the process. But single-streaming also means that broken glass, liquids in bottles, and other items contaminate about 20 percent of the paper, making it nonrecyclable, and it is sent to a landfill. Under the current system, Montgomery County Sanitation takes the single-stream recycling to a firm which then trucks it to Baltimore for processing; dual-stream recycling is processed within the county. Contamination and the added miles reduce the ecological benefit of the recycling. There is a school of thought that the ease of single-stream recycling encourages more recycling by more people, but we cannot find reliable data on the degree to which that occurs.

The Council delayed taking action on this issue until it learns what Garrett Park residents think about the choice. We hope that you will share your opinion on the Garrett Park Neighbors listserv or at the next Town Council meeting on January 14.

Peter Benjamin

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